

spastics NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

August, 1970

New Series, Price 6d.

A wonderful Week — now for next year

NO doubt about it—Spastics Week '70 was a great success and support was so wholehearted and encouraging, that already plans are being made for next year's big week of fund raising and publicity for the needs of spastics.

Thousands of people worked with a will to organise events, sponsored walks, house-to-house collections and flag days—a million flags were sent out from The Spastics Society's headquarters — and all the indications are that the public generously supported the Week with their cash.

Too early yet for a complete count-down on the money raised between July 5-11, but already we know that Ipswich and East Suffolk Group raised an extra £1,200, and "more to come in yet" report officials; that Preston and District Spastics Group raised £800, and West Sussex £900.

With figures like these, it is clear that fund raising had top priority with Groups, but as the Marquess Townshend of Raynham said in a letter to the Eastern Evening News, thanking everyone who helped to make Spastics Week such a success in Norfolk:

"Many more people are now aware of some of the problems that face those with cerebral palsy, and we have had many offers of help, and that, too, is very important to our work for local spastics."

Michael Reynolds, the Society's Spastics Week co-ordinator, is full of praise for the hard work put in by Groups to make Spastics Week the gilt-edged success it was. He estimates that at least 1,000 events were held, as well as 40 Group flag days, and the many sponsored walks, swims and marathons, and the very lucrative house-to-house campaigns.

A great spirit of enterprise

Cont. on page 4

TRIUMPHANT RETURN FOR ENDURANCE TRIO



The triumphant trio outside St. Paul's Cathedral on the City of London Flag Day. Owen Parry, Roger Holt and David Branch buy flags from singer Eve Boswell and — on the bonnet of the car in a flag-strewn dress and socks — Elise McCormack, the new Charity Princess. Comedian Cardew Robinson is perched on the roof, collecting tin at the ready.

Little Miss Courage

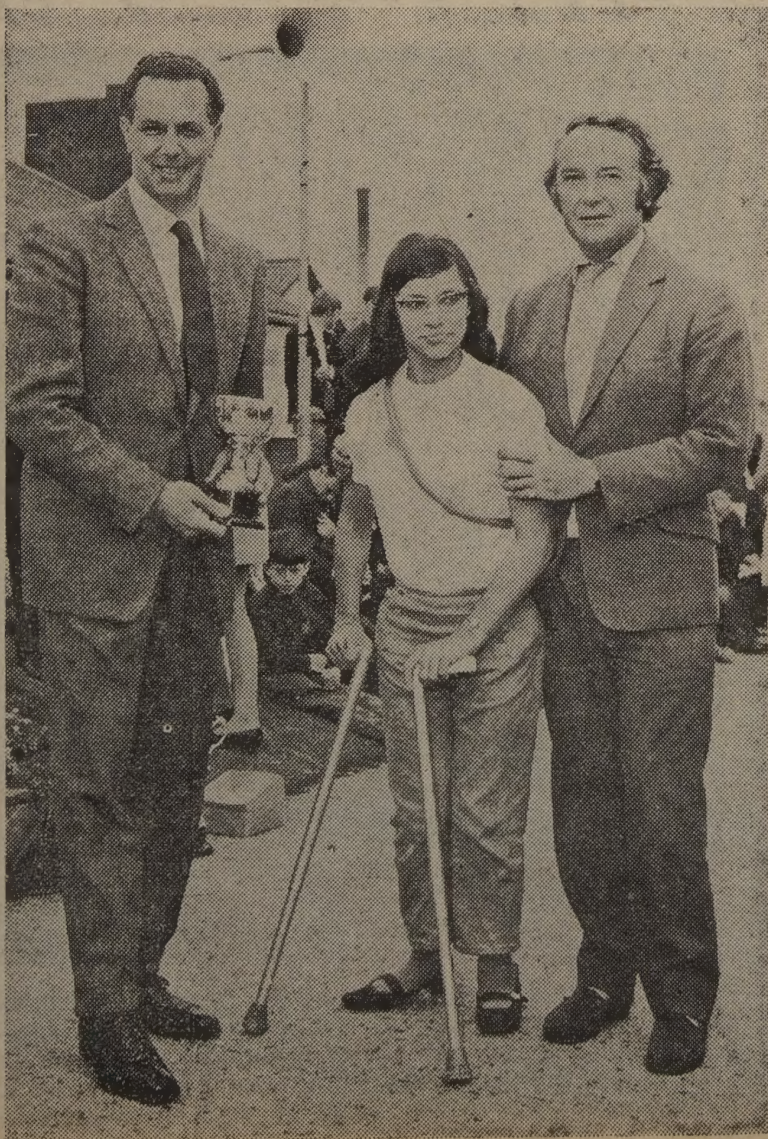
MISS Linda Thomas, aged 16, of Parkend, Near Lydney, Gloucester, is a very courageous young woman. What's more, she has a silver cup to prove it.

For Linda, a badly handicapped spastic who took part in the second National Spastics Games at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, was awarded the Boreham Cup as the competitor who had made the greatest effort to overcome physical handicap.

She received the cup from Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Social Services, who congratulated her upon her courage and determination in struggling to overcome her severe disabilities. Linda is pictured below with Sir Keith and Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society.

Linda, who won a silver medal for the club event, a bronze medal for the 60 metre run, and was also awarded a Certificate of Merit for the Precision Javelin contest, is a student at the Society's Dene Park Further Education Centre, Tonbridge, Kent. She intends to keep her cup at the Centre "so that we can all share it there."

Turn to Pages 6 and 7 for full picture coverage of the Spastics Games. Gold and silver awards on Page 11.



WELL, they made it! At 4 a.m. on Friday morning three tired but happy physically handicapped spastic drivers arrived back in London after their car endurance record bid.

The drivers—David Branch, 29, of Northolt, Middlesex; Roger Holt, 29, of Fitzroy Square, London, W.1., and Owen Parry, 35, of Garston, Watford, Hertfordshire — covered a 2,296 miles route around the perimeter of England and Wales, in 114 hours.

Goodwill stops

They drove day and night, merely pausing for goodwill stops at Southend, Great Yarmouth, Scarborough, Middlesbrough, Sunderland, Blackpool, Bristol, Plymouth, Exeter, Southampton and Brighton where special receptions had been arranged for them.

For one of the drivers, Yorkshire-born David Branch, Assistant Clubs Officer at The Spastics Society in London, the trip was especially memorable as it gained him a future wife! David and his girl friend, 18-year-old Jean Parkinson, an Associate Member and voluntary worker at the Preston '62 Club, had often discussed marriage—but never quite got around to making a firm decision.

So, en route, David decided to pop the question in no un-

— and a starry start



This was the scene outside the Society's London headquarters at the start of the drive. S.O.S. members Christine Holmes and Avril Angers were there to wish the trio well, and so was Jean Parkinson (on right of picture), the girl who received a telegraphed marriage proposal from David Branch during the drive.

certain terms. He sent a telegram from Scarborough to Jean at her home in 208 Brook Street, Preston, asking: "Will you marry me? See you in Blackpool for answer. Love, David." At Blackpool the next day he found Jean waiting to welcome him with a hug, a kiss and "yes, yes, oh yes."

David and Jean first met last February at a '62 Club meeting in Preston when he drove up from London on a routine visit. They plan to marry "some time next year." Says David, "First, we've got to save up for a home since, at

Cont. on page 9

Flag day: It looks like a rich rattling success

THE Spastic Society's first Flag Day has really pulled in the cash. The exact amount raised is not yet known as, with Local Groups choosing different flag-selling dates, money is still being paid in at banks all over the country. The total sum raised will be announced shortly but, meantime, all the indications are that the warm-hearted British public gave generously to spastics.

For instance, the South West London and District Group described its own July 11 Flag Day as "a real bonanza—we banked 105 full tins."

At Park Crescent, staff who volunteered to sell flags in the City on July 10, and in Greater London the next day, were also delighted with the response.

John Kellett, Assistant Director, Appeals, who was stationed in the City of London from 8 a.m. onwards to oversee operations, also managed to fill three tins. Michael Revell, from the Mail Room, ran a splendid depot at Shepherd's Bush and banked 16 tins. Daphne Cornille, Personnel Officer, collected a total of

£39 from customers at local shops in Marylebone.

Peter Cook, Assistant Head of Information, put in a lot of footwork and filled several tins by collecting in Fleet Street on July 10, and then doing a second voluntary stint at Waterloo Station next day. At the station he found himself acting as an unofficial porter ("carry my bag for me, love, and I'll give you a good donation.") And these were just a few of the staff who weighed in to help ensure that the Flag Day went well.

Society demands: "Promises must end — now is the time for action"

A CAREWORN mother standing beside the cot of her multi-handicapped severely subnormal small daughter with a pillow in her hand—contemplating murder. Another desperate woman, near to breaking point after years of caring for her handicapped subnormal son at home, threatening suicide—"I just can't cope any longer." A father earning only £13 weekly yet paying out more than £6 each month to provide for new shoes and weekly shoe repair bills for his physically handicapped schoolboy son.

These cases are mentioned in The Spastics Society's report on national neglect of the severely handicapped child in its midst. The report, printed in full below—entitled "Time for Compassion," and edited by Mr. James Loring, the Society's Director—lists 10 major areas which require urgent

attention by Government and Local Authorities. It deals, among other things, with the scandalous lack of nursery and day care units for handicapped children, the crying need for family type units for the subnormal child and the tragedy of children still being born with avoidable handicaps in our modern welfare state. It also calls for special family allowances for mothers of severely handicapped children.

Says Mr. W. A. Burn, the Society's Chairman: "This report is a damning condemnation of that part of the Welfare State which purports to look after the handicapped. Care and compassion was a theme bandied about by all political parties during the recent General Election. However, as this report demonstrates clearly, the time for mere words and Dutch auctions of promises is over. Compassion must be shown now—and in an entirely practical way for

this depressed minority of handicapped persons and their families."

Comments Mr. Burn, "The life blood of our social services is money. Yet Government has invariably pleaded insufficient resources to meet all the calls upon the nation's purse. It, therefore, relies upon voluntary bodies to fill the gap while denying them and those who make donations to them necessary support in the form of financial incentives.

"This is a curiously anomalous position, especially as regards service charities whose work is the direct obligation of the tax-paying community. It underlines the urgent need for a wide-ranging study of the financing of charities with particular reference to changes in taxation legislation, demonstrating conclusively that we care and are compassionate."

COMMUNITY CARE

FOR physically handicapped children who also suffer from a mental handicap, Special Care Units are essential if they are to be kept out of long stay hospitals.

There is a great shortage of these Units and a shortage of Junior Training Centres. These children—particularly in rural areas—tend to stay at home, deprived of stimulation, training, education and anything approaching normal life.

As a result of pressure brought by voluntary bodies (and particularly The Spastics Society) there has been a sharp decrease in the number of mentally handicapped children being admitted to subnormality hospitals. However, grave concern is felt for these children, because of the lack of community care facilities in many areas. The children often stay at home, tended day and night by over-tired and despairing mothers.

One such desperate mother recently contacted The Spastics Society when a hospital refused to take in her handicapped subnormal son. Physically and mentally worn out herself through caring for her sick child, she felt that suicide was the only answer if The Spastics Society could not help her as "I just can't cope any longer."

"FAMILY" HOMES

WHILST it is an excellent move for subnormality hospitals not to accept very young children for long-term care, to do so in the absence of other facilities could make the situation worse, as the Society's case files show.

A mother of three children, living and battling alone, was caring for a multi-handicapped severely subnormal three-year-old daughter who screamed continually as well as having frequent fits. The child was only silent when nursed. But subnormality hospitals refused to take in the child because of her age.

The mother admitted to a Society social worker she had found herself in the night standing by the screaming child's cot with a pillow in her hand—about to place it over the child's face. She had stopped herself in time—but she knew that it could happen again.

Yet not until the social worker had contacted four different authorities was the child admitted for long term care. This pathetic human drama highlights the crash programme urgently needed to provide a large number of small family type units where subnormal children can be

cared for and encouraged to develop to their full potential.

At the moment the very limited funds available are being spent on "tarring up" hospitals many of which should have been closed 50 years ago.

This is a mere palliative—what is needed is a dynamic and ruthless approach to the problem. More public education is necessary to awaken a lasting concern for the subnormal and grossly handicapped.

Although the British public—quite rightly—has always warmed readily to disasters abroad, it has tended to neglect the grave and critical problem of the young handicapped on its own doorstep.

STRAIN ON PARENTS

THE failure of the Government and Local Authorities to give proper attention to severely handicapped children imposes a great strain on the families. Some parents have broken down completely under the stress, and some families have broken up.

The Spastics Society has built Family Help Units where children can be cared for over periods ranging from one night to a few weeks, and the family is given temporary relief from stress and strain. These Units are very costly to run. Yet, in many cases, Local Authorities refuse to support them.

This lack of official financial support leaves a heavy deficit of running costs that must be raised through street collections and other means. These collections are often organised and carried out by the parents themselves.

Thus to the constant strain of looking after these children is added the exhausting work of fund-raising—although parents of handicapped children pay rates, taxes and National Health Insurance like everyone else.

THE LONG WAIT

THERE is a very grave shortage of educational facilities for subnormal spastic children. These children can make rapid progress in special schools, but, alas, there are still long waiting lists. Some of The Spastics Society's schools have waiting lists of three years.

Educationally subnormal children are often late developers. If assessed as suitable for E.S.N. schools at, say, the age of eight, it may be a year before placement on a school waiting list. A wait of a further three years could mean that the child was 12 before being admitted.

This is a deplorable situa-

tion. It is not uncommon for a spastic child to have three handicaps in addition to its motor disability, such as deafness, sight impairment and a speech defect. Early education is essential if these children are not to be still further penalised.

FINANCIAL BURDEN

THE family with a handicapped child may have a permanent and sometimes heavy financial burden. In most cases the mother is unable to go out to work, yet the proportion of net family income spent on the handicapped child can be as high as 2s. in the £; indeed, in some extreme cases it can rise to 4s. in the £.

Very little is done to alleviate this problem partly because its complexities are not fully understood. For a crippled but mobile child, footwear and shoe repairs alone can cost 15/- or more per week.

One father, earning only £13 weekly has to pay for repairs weekly and provide new shoes monthly for his severely physically handicapped son. This unavoidable expenditure totals approximately £6 4s. each month, and the penalised parent receives neither a welfare subsidy nor special tax relief. For an incontinent bed-bound child, as many as 50 nappies a week may require laundering with a reserve store of 50 in hand. Some enlightened local authorities provide incontinence pads. Many do not. Other examples of extra cost abound.

A special family allowance is urgently needed for all parents with a handicapped child.

NURSERY SCHOOLS

A LACK of nursery and pre-school units and, in particular, of those willing to take young severely handicapped children is, in many cases, aggravating the physical handicap and producing an added psychological handicap.

In many cases, the deprivation they suffer is often irreparable. It is also economic folly as they may well be lost on the scrapheap for life.

CRUEL COMMENTS

A FAMILY with a handicapped child is often isolated from other families and has its own special problem—its own brand of grief or irrational guilt.

When there are normal

children in the family, they can be a good link with the community. If, however, the severely handicapped child is an only child, the links are frequently poor. Much of the talk across the garden wall is about children, but parents find it difficult to discuss handicapped children who are making little or no progress with parents of the normal healthy child.

Indeed, where a child is grossly handicapped, social workers report that mothers sometimes overhear the neighbourhood comment, "I can't understand why children like that should be allowed to live—much better they shouldn't survive."

As a result the family with a handicapped child, without generous community support and understanding, often suffers self-inflicted ostracism and the mental well-being of the whole family is endangered.

PRACTICAL RESEARCH

THERE is an urgent need for research in the field of severe handicap—in particular, research into the social and family problems, as well as prevention and cure. Much research, however, is excessively academic.

Whilst sound basic research

is necessary, there is a vital need for good operational research which has the prospect of an early pay-off. For instance, much more fieldwork needs to be carried out on such practical aids to daily living as improved incontinence pads, bathroom aids and hoists for the severely disabled child, to provide more independence and comfort as well as help ease the 24-hour burden on parents.

More Government money and greater co-ordination of effort is needed to produce still better equipment for Britain's handicapped children.

AVOIDABLE HANDICAPS

ALTHOUGH the rates of perinatal mortality are being reduced they are still far too high. Facilities must be improved throughout the country to enable doctors and midwives to implement the results of research work and practice. For, despite advances in medical knowledge, many children continue to be born with avoidable handicaps.

Indeed, it was stressed by one medical specialist that if our present knowledge were applied to ante-natal care, obstetrical practice and management of the newborn, cerebral palsy could be prevented in a substantial proportion of cases—perhaps as high as a quarter or even a third.

TAXATION REVIEW

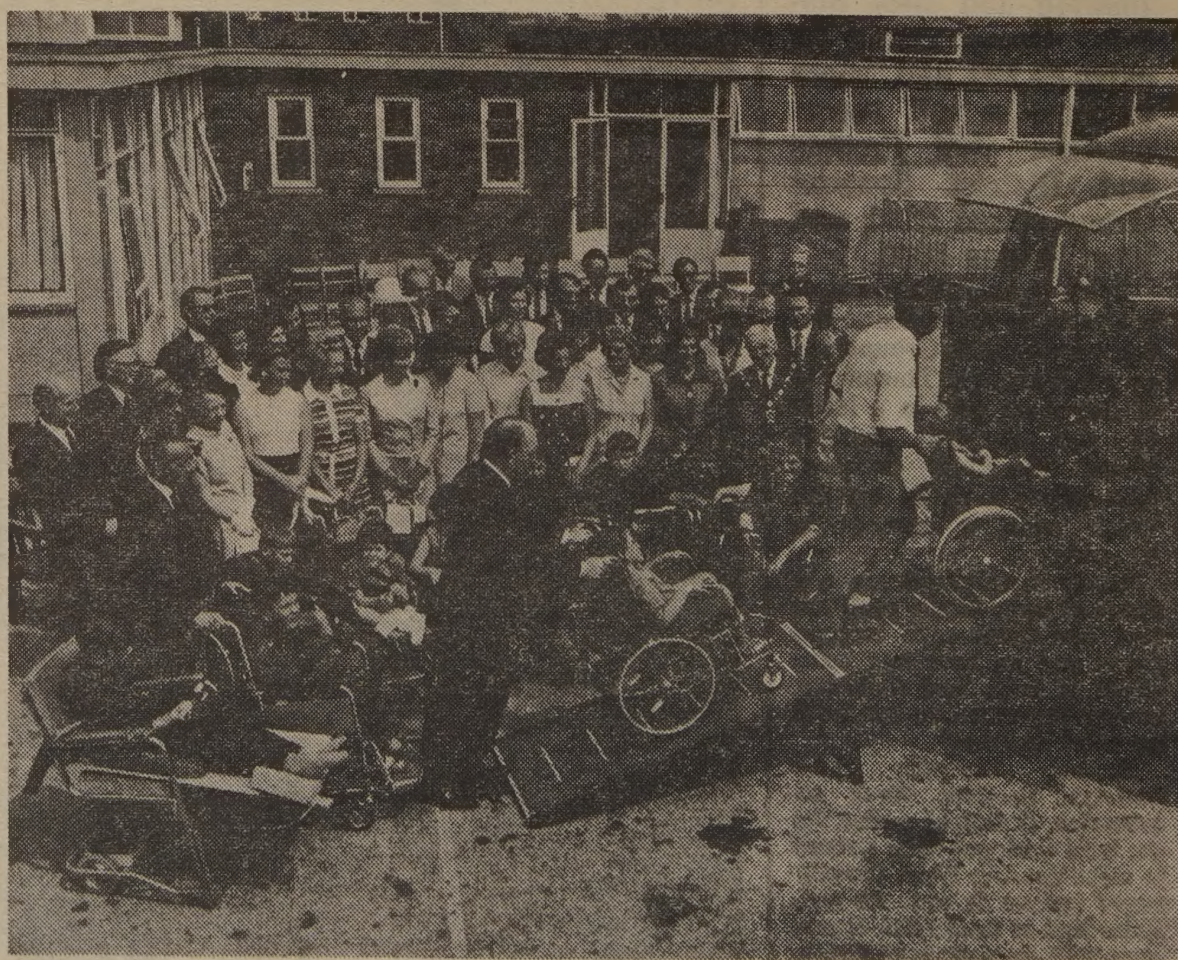
AS the affluent society advances, it leaves behind it an increasing number of groups of disadvantaged people. The severely handicapped are amongst these. They become, therefore, increasingly dependent upon voluntary bodies.

Ten years ago there were still those in the Social Service who thought that voluntary action had no future, but voluntary organisations are now considered to be a very necessary part of the Welfare State. They therefore have a right to positive encouragement by the State.

The whole tax and fiscal structure as it affects charities dealing with handicapped people requires immediately a comprehensive and sympathetic review. Many countries overseas operate simplified tax reliefs for charitable donations as an active encouragement to community involvement by the individual. Some countries also allow tax reliefs on gifts by business firms to charities.

Conversely, in Britain, the tax structure with its built-in disincentives, adversely affects all charities. The Government must recognise this, and encourage gifts to charity by a generous tax relief system, if voluntary bodies are to continue in their present role of succouring the rejects of society.

Happy result of appeal fund



Pupils of Ysgol Gogarth School for physically handicapped children are wheeled aboard the school's new £1,100 coach at the handing-over ceremony. The Spastics Society was among the many organisations which contributed to the appeal fund for the coach, launched two years ago by Llandudno Round Table.

Photograph by courtesy of South Wales Weekly News.

AS their contribution to Spastics Week, the staff at The Spastics Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre, Fitzroy Square, London, staged a highly successful Uncommon Market. The Centre was packed with stalls and slideshows — crammed with visitors — and the Market spread itself out of the front doors, across the pavement and into the square, where an exhibition of original paintings, donated

Want to sell a 'fridge to an eskimo? Ask the staff at Fitzroy Square — they can sell ANYTHING to ANYBODY!

by their artists, was ranged along the railings.

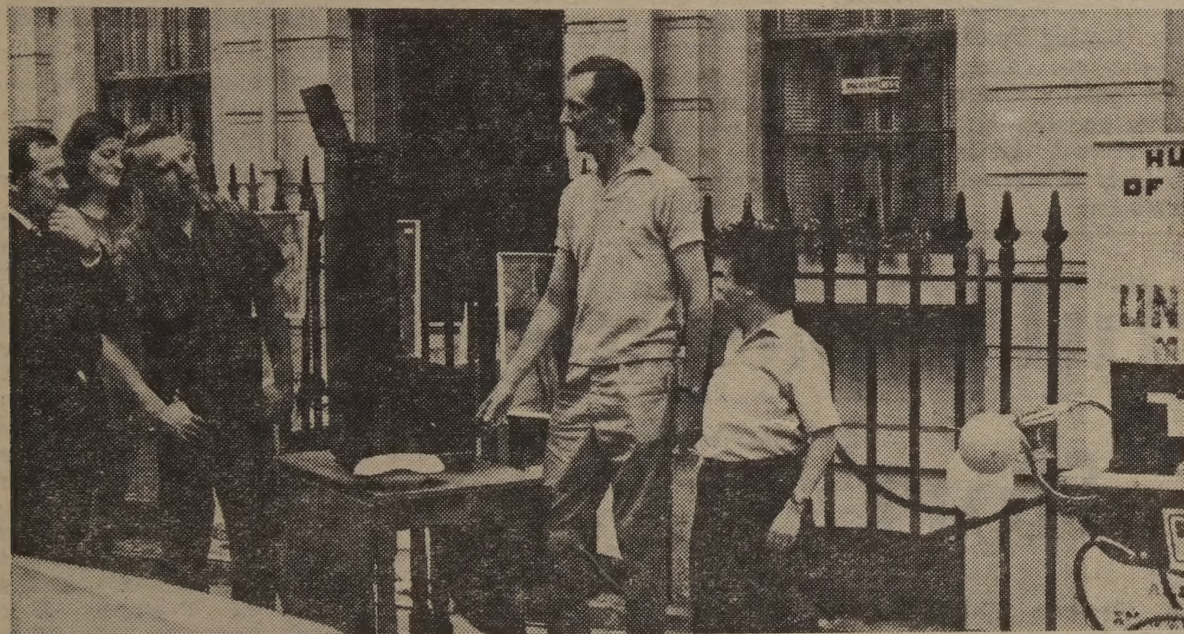
The staff and their friends who had been roped in to help, worked with a will, determined

to sell everything in sight. There were bargains galore, and the sales talk was so irresistible that few visitors left the Market without an armful of purchases.

And as the Market raised £600 everyone agreed that all the hard work and the persuasive words had been well worth the effort.



ABOVE: Mr. Derek Lancaster-Gaye, the Society's Assistant Director, Services, finds a treasure on the White Elephant stall—but isn't quite sure what it is! BELOW: Miss Ann Richardson, occupational therapist at the Centre (on right of picture) admires the effect of a pair of ear-rings on a potential customer. Needless to say, such persuasive sales tactics made a sale every time.



ABOVE: Talented artist Miss Natalie Brocklehurst raised money for the Centre with portrait sketches at five bob a time, and passers-by were so interested, that she thought of charging them for watching... Her sitter is Alan Finlayson who drives the Centre's mini-bus when he is not acting as a patron of the arts. BELOW: Mrs. Daphne Corneille, Personnel Officer at the Society's Headquarters at Park Crescent, did a roaring trade on the hat stall.



The big puffers will set steam for spectacular

AS reported briefly in the July issue of Spastics News, the Lincoln and District Spastics Society is all set to beat last year's record attendance at the Caenby Corner Steam Spectacular. This year's rally will be held on August 15th and 16th, when 30 steam traction engines from many parts of the country, 10 vintage fairground organs, a traditional old time fun fair, and a travelling circus, will converge on Caenby Corner.

This is the fourth annual rally to be organised by the Lincoln and District Spastics Society Show Committee. With the efforts of the past three years, the committee has been able to hand over an £800 cheque towards the running expenses of the county's residential Centre for spastics at Scunthorpe; provide the Centre with £190 worth of curtaining and a special electric typewriter, and send spastics on holiday at a cost of £70.

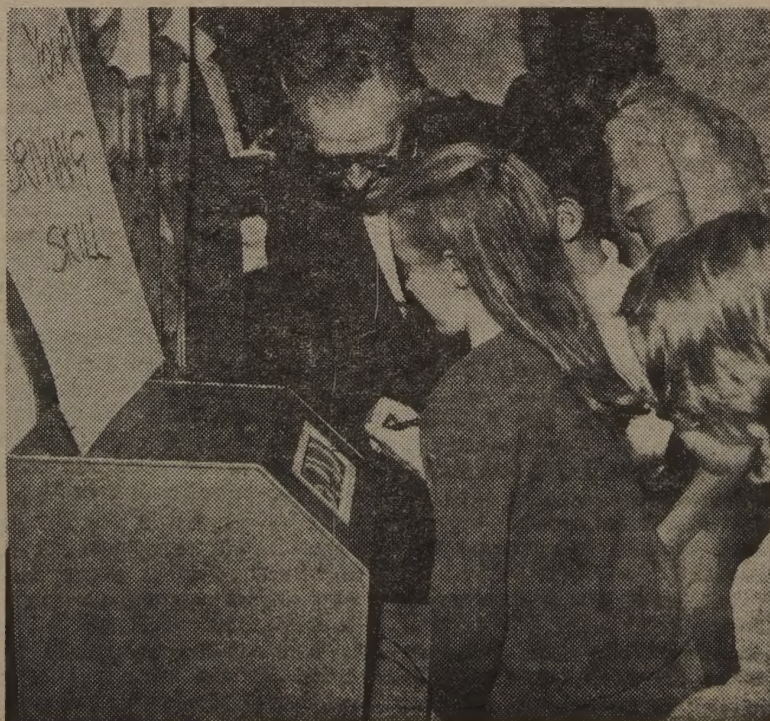
This year's event promises to be the biggest and best yet. There will be a full programme of arena events on both days, with novel competitions for the steam giants of yester-

year, and displays of marching and playing by two nationally-known carnival bands. When the rally opens on Saturday, August 15th, the guests will be the Melton Mowbray Tally Ho Band, while on the following day it will be the turn of the Derby Midshipmen's Band.

Around the arena there will be a wide variety of attractions to suit all tastes.

A big attraction will be the models tent — a rally within a rally — with a wide range of working models. Lincolnshire County Police will be represented with a display of accident prevention, while for the steam railway enthusiasts there will be a passenger-carrying miniature railway.

ABOVE: Visitors were attracted to the fete by the strains of an antique music-making machine energetically wound up by Mr. Philip Dyer of the Centre. BELOW LEFT: Placement Officer, Mr. F. J. McManus explains the "Test Your Driving Skill" Machine to a young L-driver. BELOW RIGHT: Psychologist Mr. Leslie Gardner and his son James raised pounds on their pin ball machine. Their customers are Christabel White and Mrs. David.



Stars raise £2,000-plus at Open Day

WAKES Hall, the Adult Residential Centre run by the Stars Organisation for Spastics, had a most successful Open Day as their Spastics Week effort. The weather was perfect and about 5,000 people attended. Takings—amounted to more than £2,000—double last year's total.

Show Business personalities who helped to run the many sideshows included Avril Angers, Jean Aubrey, Eve Boswell, Gabrielle Brune, John Garrie Rod Goodwin, Dickie Henderson, John Horsley, Murray Kash, Muriel Pavlow and Peiere Picton. The National Charity Princess, Elsie McCormack, was also present.

Among the most popular fund-raising attractions were tombola, bottle stalls, charity dog racing and a vintage car display. Instant "Photographs with a Star" did a roaring trade.

The Open Day was run with the help of the Friends of Wakes Hall, a group of Colchester businessmen, who work tirelessly for the Centre, and 12 outside organisations also contributed to the success of the day.

Margo and Ken at the ready

A YOUNG spastic man from Yorkshire has been offered a chance to train as a security officer.

He is Kenneth Sykes of Golcar, near Huddersfield, who has trained his Alsatian bitch Margo in security work since she was a puppy. They recently won first prize in a competition organised by the local branch of the British Alsatian Association to which Ken has belonged for two years.

Ken wrote to a national Sunday newspaper asking if they could help him find a job with his dog. A story was published in the newspaper and a security services firm in Essex offered Ken and Margo a month's free training.

Ken has been doing a part-time security job with a firm near his home, but he hopes that, after training, he and Margo will be able to branch out into full time work.

Picture shows Ken and Margo ready to tackle any intruder.

Photo by courtesy of Huddersfield Examiner.



Reading the good news



Hundreds of newspaper cuttings poured into Society headquarters during Spastics Week with coverage of events up and down the country, and of the all-the-year round work of the Society and the 173 Local Groups. Publicity for the needs of spastics was, of course, a vital aspect of the Week, and Mr. W. A. Burn, Chairman of The Spastics Society, was delighted that such a harvest of important column inches had been reaped. He is pictured looking through newspaper cuttings with (centre) Mrs. Sheila Jenner, Editor of Spastics News, and Miss Patricia Taylor, Head of Information.

That wonderful Spastics Week effort

(Contd. from Page 1)

was shown by Groups in planning events which would really interest the public.

Sponsored marathons were very popular. Perhaps the most novel of all was the 12-hour sheep shearing session by Devon farmers Mr. Bill Hill of Dunsford and Mr. John Andrews of Chagford. They sheared 439 sheep in the day, and their effort should bring in between £600 and £700 for the Devon and Exeter Spastics Society.

"We have always enjoyed good health and thought anything we could do to help others not so lucky would be well worth while," said Mr. Hill.

An encouraging aspect of

Spastics Week was the way in which young people rallied to help. Thousands of school-children took part in the sponsored walks at nine Stately Homes—and many thanks to the co-operation of their owners—and though it is too early to finalise amounts raised because of the school holidays, preliminary figures are very cheering.

Arundel Castle—an estimate of approximately £2,500 raised; Petworth House—£1,000; Knole—£600; Wherwell Priory—£500; Woburn Abbey—£600; Chatsworth—£500; Weston Park—£300; Harewood House—£500; Blenheim Palace, very few walkers, but £100 has probably been raised.

And how the youngsters went out for the cash! One girl from a Sussex boarding school taking part in the Arundel Castle walk, Telexed her sponsor form to her parents in Hong Kong and persuaded them to back her to the tune of £113. A spastic girl who took part in the Petworth House walk was sponsored at the rate of £17 a mile, and covered 10.

That courageous young walker was typical of the efforts made by the disabled themselves for the Week. Most of the Society and Local Group Centres were open to visitors, and spastic residents and pupils took full part in the variety of events.

In Thanet, disabled swimmer John Bell, aged 25, started Spastics Week with a splash when he took on a 6½-mile sponsored swim from Deal to Ramsgate. Also in Thanet, weight-watching lady members

of Westgate Slimline Club spent the week battling with the calories for a sponsored slimming contest.

Two handicapped children helped to raise £250 during a sponsored swim at Weston-super-Mare, when a total of 1,856 lengths were covered. Stars Organisation for Spastics Chairman, Dickie Henderson, attended the dance held by the Group, yet another of its Spastics Week events.

It was fun and thrills for all at the "It's a Knockout" spectacular staged by the Darlington and District Spastics Society. This was the biggest event ever held by the Group, and a target of £2,000 was set.

The Society's national advertising which emphasised the problems of families with multiply handicapped children was very well received. There was no donation coupon on the adverts as they were not intended as immediate fund raisers, but even so, many hundreds of pounds were sent to the Society by people touched by them.

And the Observer newspaper supported the Week by inserting—for free—the message "Support Spastics Week and Flag Day" on one of its main pages, and this generous gesture was greatly appreciated.

These are just a few of the many highlights of the Week, and news of other events will be found throughout the issue. Unfortunately, Spastics News is just not big enough to recount all the successes of a wonderful Week which showed how much the Society and Groups achieve when working

No tax cuts while 60,000 rot — Director

"THE conditions in the majority of subnormality hospitals remain a national disgrace" declared Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, at a London Press Conference during Spastics Week.

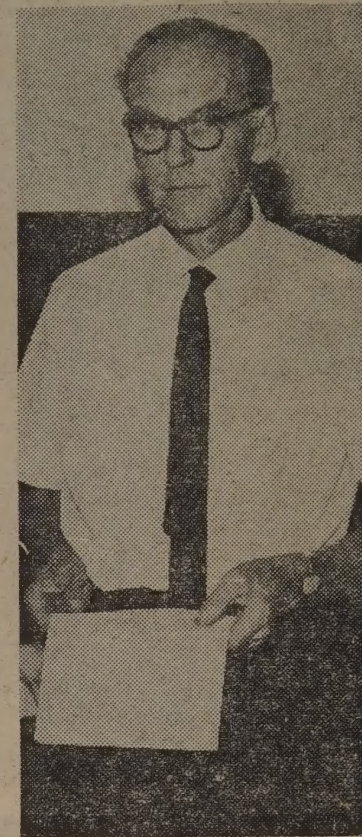
The effect of bad buildings, he said, was compounded by a chronic lack of money and staff. The Secretary of State for Health in the last Government was denied adequate funds to remedy the situation and "resorted to a policy of tarring up old hospitals, which deceived no-one and achieved very little."

"As a long-term policy it headed for disaster and more tragedies of the Ely and Farleigh type."

Mr. Loring said that an enlightened draft White Paper on reorganisation, which had the support of expert opinion within and outside the Ministry, had been pigeonholed for months because of lack of funds. There was no mention of the mental health services in the Queen's Speech, although prominence was given to the policy of tax reduction.

"It would be tragic and, in my opinion, quite contrary to public feeling, if there were reductions in personal taxation while 60,000 men, women and children rotted away in custodial care, more than half of whom, could, if facilities were available, live in the community."

"Subnormality has always



The Conference was chaired by Professor Jack Tizard, Professor of Child Development at the Institute of Education, University of London.

been at the end of the queue and staff concerned have been demoralised by promises. Whilst one sympathises with them, they must shoulder some of the blame because of their failure to understand the essential political nature of the problem. Swift and firm action by them on behalf of their patients is now probably the only effective weapon left."

The Conference was on the theme of Psychological and Educational Research and was chaired by Professor Jack Tizard, Professor of Child Development at the Institute of Education, University of London.

Speakers told of the important research projects supported by the Society which, said Mr. Loring, considered research so vital that it had been prepared to sacrifice some direct services to spastics in order to find the money.

A full report of the Conference will appear in the next issue of Spastics News.

Paul and Lulu — a winning team

ABOUT 1,400 walkers turned up for the big Spastics Week sponsored walk at Richmond Park, Surrey, and between them they raised between £4,000 and £5,000. The walkers covered a 10-mile course, criss crossing the Park to make contact with various check points.

Paul Nihill, Britain's Olympic walker, who was sponsored by pop singer Lulu, completed the course in one hour 35 minutes. He was well ahead of the other walkers—as might be expected.

Paul told Spastics News afterwards: "I would walk anywhere for Lulu."

Lulu would have taken part in the walk herself, but an overseas engagement prevented her from doing so. She decided to sponsor Paul instead.

Learning about the bees

DID you know that 1,000 bees weigh 1 lb? That the queen does not lead a swarming colony? (She may be reluctantly pulled out by the workers, who then follow her to new premises). And that "scouts" fly up to four miles to find the right flowers?

These are a few of the facts given to residents of the Grange Spastics Centre, Kelvedon, Essex by Mr. Brian Smith, a local bee keeper, when he took a swarm which had settled in the grounds of the Centre.

Later the residents were given some delicious honey as a reward for telling Mr. Smith about the swarm.

Fun for the girls and cash bonanza for good causes

Pop idol Tony Blackburn gets preferential treatment from

Princess Elise McCormack and Queen Elizabeth Gavan.

MORE than £42,000 was raised for nearly 30 charities in this year's National Charity Queen and Princess Contest. The Final, held at London's Lyceum ballroom, was a star spangled affair, full of excitement and drama. Especially when pretty 21-years-old Elise McCormack an administrative assistant with the Stars Organisation for Spastics, nearly brought off a remarkable double by coming in a close second in the Queen part of the contest. This was after she had easily won the Princess title with a fantastic total of £6,546 raised for the S.O.S.

For winning the Princess title, Elise received a prize of £500—and another £200 for her second place in the Queen

fund-raising effort resulted in a total of £2,750.

Bristol Spastics Association also featured among the principal winners for, on their behalf, Dawn Scully did extremely well to raise £1,156.

Winner of the Queen title was lovely Elizabeth Gavan (20) from Wythenshaw, Manchester, whose nominated charity was Dr. Barnardo's.

It was only the second year that the contest has been held but already it has shown itself to be an extremely valuable fund raiser, and a useful publicity medium for many charities. The girls themselves think that fund raising is fun. Yet to reach the final meant giving up a great deal of spare time and working hard at fund raising events.

Tried and True

Many of the old favourites appear in the list of fund raising events held—coffee mornings, club draws, socials, charity walks, ladies football matches, fashion shows, sherry parties and so on.

Some of the more unusual fund raising events held by the girls included an antique auction, dog racing, a witch hunt, pub crawl, a table tennis marathon, old time music hall and a sponsored hike (which included handicapped people) in snow.

One girl issued a challenge

to darts and skittles teams in her area. Another made mascots to sell to the supporters of a football club. Yet another took over an empty shop and sold secondhand goods obtained from wherever she could get them.

Heather Puddephatt and Pat May each organised and held more than 30 events individually to reach their totals.

But, enterprising as they are, most girls co-opted the help of families, friends, sponsors and work colleagues as well as organisations such as sports clubs, schools, Round Table, Rotary, Townswoman's Guilds, youth clubs, Boys Brigade, drama groups, pubs, Y.M.C.A., a domino league and Scouts, to name just a few.

The most popular—and profitable—events of all were sponsored walks.

The astonishing result is that between them the 33 contestants raised over £42,000! Just ordinary girls. Or perhaps they are extraordinary...

Principal winners in the Princess Contest were: 1st and National Charity Princess for 1970 is Elise

McCormack, who raised £6,546 for the Stars Organisation for Spastics.

2nd Patricia May, who raised £2,897 for St. Christopher's School.

3rd Jenny Green, who raised £2,850 for National Kidney Research Fund.

4th Jane Trushell, who raised £2,750 for the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics.

5th Jean Watkins, who raised £2,397 for Bristol Old Peoples' Welfare.

6th Anne Cumming, who raised £1,929 for the Scottish Hansel Village.

7th Heather Puddephatt, who raised £1,781 for Daresbury Hall Spastics Centre.

8th Ruth Cohen, who raised £1,697 for International Voluntary Service.

9th Karen Parkinson, who raised £1,350 for the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child.

10th Jennifer Griffiths, who raised £1,290 for the Warmley Training Centre.

11th Dawn Scully, who raised £1,156 for Bristol Spastics Association.

12th Vanessa Hiatt, who raised £1,012 for Bristol Council for the Disabled.

Compere Don Moss announced that The Good Neighbours Trust had decided to make supporting grants in the following amounts:

1st Girl: £500 to her nominated charity.

2nd—5th girls: £250 to each girl's nominated charity.

6th—12th girls: their weight in gold—the Trust to donate, to each girl's nominated charity, £1 for every pound of her own weight.

In addition, the five judges in the contest were each given £1,000 to donate to their favourite charity.

Main winners in the Queen Contest were:

1st and National Charity Queen: Elizabeth Gavan for Dr. Barnardo's.

2nd:—Elise McCormack for Stars Organisation for Spastics.

3rd:—Margaret Cumming for Dr. Barnardo's.

4th:—Vanessa Hiatt for Bristol Council for the Disabled.

5th:—Anne Cumming for the Scottish Hansel Village.



Mr. Douglas Arter, Chairman and Managing Director of Top Ten Promotions which organised the Contest, presents the £500 winning cheque to Elise McCormack.

Contest. Her stunning Victorian style gown and intricate hair-do enhanced a sparkling personality that earned her high marks from the judging panel that included Miss World, disc jockey Tony Blackburn, cricketer Ted Dexter, ITV's World of Sport front man Richard Davies, and Honey magazine editor Gillian Cooke.

The prizes were presented by Mr. Douglas Arter, Chairman and Managing Director of Top Ten Promotions, which organised the contest.

Coming into fourth place in the Princess Contest for the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics was petite Jane Trushell (22) whose fine

Sandie lends a paw for spastics



Ruth Allen, 12, with her dog Sandie, who both took part in a sponsored walk around Dunstall Park racecourse, Staffordshire. Wolverhampton and District Spastics Society was hoping to raise £900 from the event.

(Photo by courtesy of Wolverhampton Express and Star)

Friendly £420

The Friends of Jacques Hall, the Society's Residential home for adult spastics near Manningtree in Essex, have raised £420 for the Centre. The money will be used to purchase essential items for the workshop and some equipment for the catering side.

Parents will discuss problems

A NEW local Spastics Group has been started at Tynemouth, Northumberland. The Group was first instigated by the Community Service Committee of the North Shields Rotary Club. It aims to help spastics meet one another and become more integrated into society.

Parents of spastic children will be encouraged to discuss mutual problems, as well as organising outings for the children.

The newly-elected Chairman of the Group, Lieut. Cmdr. Alan Liddicoat, said, "Through the Welfare Department we think we know of most of the spastics in Tynemouth, but if there are any others people know about who are not officially listed, they should contact us."



On the eve of the finals the contestants went on a "grand tour" of London. Their transport—a 1922 open-top bus. After lunch at the Mermaid Theatre Restaurant Sir Bernard Miles posed with Karen Parkinson, Anne Cumming, Elizabeth Gavan, and Jane Trushell who represented the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics.

'Win if you can, smile if you can't, but enjoy taking part'

THAT good advice to competitors was the message from Mr. Douglas Arter, Chairman and Managing Director of Regional Pool Promotions Ltd., when he officially opened the two-day National Spastics Games at Stoke Mandeville.

Mr. Arter's company sponsored the Games for the second year running, and recalling the 1969 success he said: "What impressed me most was the fact that in no event did I see any competitor give up, despite the fact that the winner was already past the post — they all went on and finished."

The sporting spirit was certainly in evidence from the 240 spastic adults, teenagers, and children, who competed in track and field events once thought beyond their capabilities, and took part in displays of horse riding, archery, table tennis, wheelchair basketball and football. The entrants came from Schools, Centres,

and organisations for the disabled from all over England and Wales.

They competed with such spirit, enthusiasm and evident enjoyment that the success of the Games was assured from the very first event in the packed programme.

Highlight of the weekend was the visit of Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Social Services who visited the Games on Sunday to present awards.

He brought a personal message from the Prime Minister, Mr. Edward Heath, to competitors and officials, offering them his best wishes and congratulations on their achievements. Mr. Heath was to have attended the Games but was prevented from doing so because of his official duties.

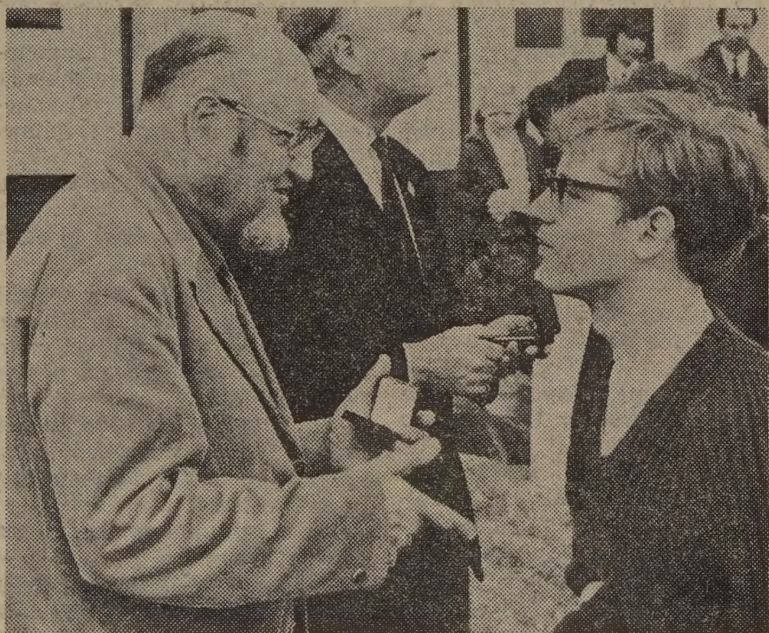
The Spastics Games were so successful that The Spastics Society hopes to hold a European Games in the future. And the possibility of holding a World Games for spastics is also being considered.



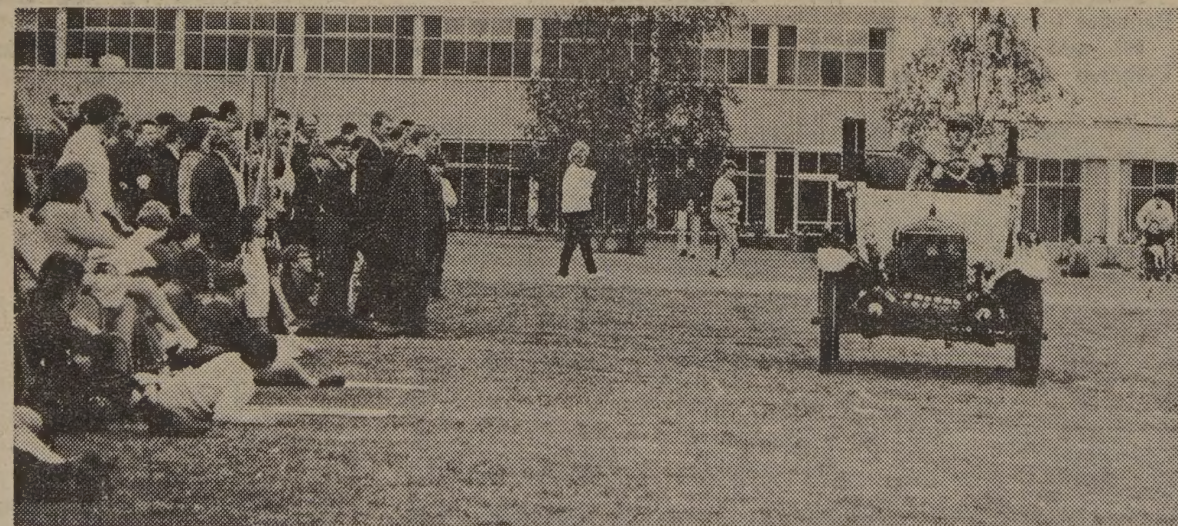
ABOVE: A typical scene at the Spastics Games—a young athlete takes part in a club event watched by a large crowd of fellow competitors and visitors. All the varied and keenly contested events were followed with great interest.



ABOVE: Kevin Reed is only seven years old, but what effort he puts into throwing the javelin! Kevin was the youngest competitor in the Games and everyone was delighted when he won a gold medal for the club event. This splendid young sportsman is a pupil at Craig-y-Parc School.



ABOVE: Mr. Kurt Juster, a welcome visitor from the Hamburg Spastics Society, presents a bronze medal to A. D'Witt of Wilfred Pickles School for coming third in the tricycle slalom. Mr. Juster was full of praise for the spirit and determination shown by the competitors.



ABOVE: Pierre Picton in action with his world famous and hilarious act featuring a most unpredictable car! BELOW: Pupils from Thomas Delarue School gave an accomplished horse riding display.



ABOVE RIGHT: Charity Princess Elise McCormack presents a gold medal for the precision javelin event to W. Archer from the Ian Tetley Memorial School, Harrogate.

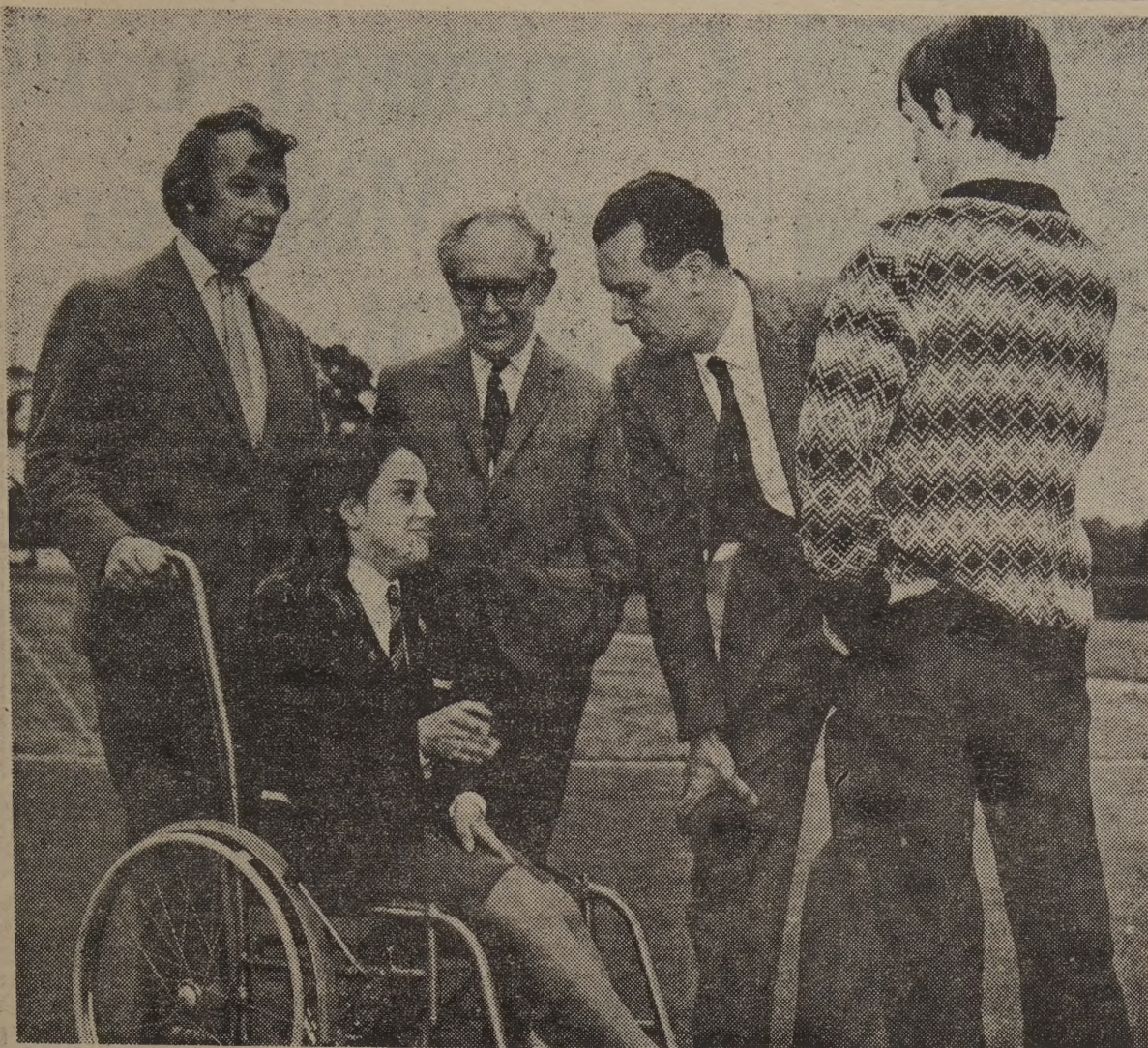


ABOVE: Amanda Dee, of the Thomas Delarue School talks to Mr. James Loring and Sir Keith Joseph after taking part in the riding display. With them is Mr. Peter Felgate of the Bradbourne Riding and Training School.



ABOVE: Mrs. A. Monzani presents the Monzani Cup for the most successful Regional team, to David Iddenham of Ingfield Manor School. David is accepting the Cup on behalf of the South East team. In the background are Mr. Palmer and Mr. Arter.

Spastics Games prize list on Page 11



ABOVE: Happy smiles from a group of competitors from Dene Park Further Education Centre. LEFT: Gold medallist Ann Trotman of Thomas Delarue School is pictured with Mr. Loring, Mr. H. W. Palmer, a Vice-Chairman of the Society, Sir Keith Joseph and Tony Gamble.



The clowning display by Pierre Picton was a light-hearted interlude in Sunday morning's programme, and thoroughly enjoyed by both children and adults. ABOVE: Pierre enlists the aid of J. Pulford from Craig-y-Parc School. BELOW: Mr. Arter was a popular figure as he toured the field encouraging competitors. His enthusiasm for the Games—and his company's sponsorship—were most appreciated.



ABOVE: Competitors from Percy Hedley School, Newcastle, get together to plan their campaign, all determined to make the maximum effort to do well. And they certainly did—the Hedley team won 59 medals between them.



ABOVE: Barbara Edwards, aged 17, of Dene Park, pictured in action throwing the javelin, had a very successful Games—first in the slalom, second in the wheelchair dash, and certificates of merit for six other events.

Mystery donor left cash in church porch

A ROUGH brown paper parcel containing £978 10s. for spastics was left by an anonymous donor in the porch of Folkestone Parish Church, Kent.

It was addressed to comedian Leslie Crowther, who recently made a television appeal on behalf of the Cheyne Walk Spastics Centre, Chelsea.

RESIDENTS and staff of the Grange Centre for spastics, Kelvedon, Essex, recently spent an enjoyable day out at Point Clear, a beautifully designed chalet and holiday "town" on the Essex coast.

On a day of perfect weather they were entertained by the Proprietor, Mr. Parrish, the Manager, Mr. Logue and the Manager of the Commodore Club, Mr. Mann. A tea-time cabaret had been arranged,

but when the performers failed to turn up, Mrs. Logue stepped in and entertained the visitors on the electric organ, assisted by her poodle, Heather.

A POLICE inspector from Woolwich, East London, has been awarded the B.E.M. in recognition of his service in the Royal Navy and the Police, and for his work with spastic children.

He is Inspector Powers, 50, Chief Officer at the North Woolwich Police station, who spends most of his spare time running the Lions Swimming Club in Welling, Kent, for physically handicapped children.

CATALOGUES were sold in aid of Ingfield Manor School for Spastics at a Charles Dickens centenary exhibition held at Billingshurst, Sussex.

The exhibition showed original illustrations to the Dick-

ens' novels, including complete sets of 12 pen and wash drawings illustrating "Bleak House" and "Little Dorrit" by the artist 'Kyd' — Joseph Clayton Clarke.

THE Stars Organisation for Spastics in Scotland is joining with the Glasgow branch committee of the

BITS AND PIECES
by The Collector

Police Dependent Trust to stage an International Police Tattoo in the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, from 9th to 15th of August.

World famous police pipe bands will take part, and

police from Italy, Norway, Denmark—and England—will add an International flavour to the events. Proceeds will be divided between the two funds.

THE engagement is announced of Keith Burrows and Jenny Gibson, both spastics living in London. The couple first met at school in 1959 but did not become really close friends until they went to the Paddington Work Centre.

Jenny is now working in open employment and they hope to marry as soon as Keith, too, can find a suitable job.

THE annual bring and buy coffee morning held by Mrs. R. Green at her home in Chichester Road, East Croydon, Surrey, this year raised £110 for Croydon and District Spastics Society, the highest amount ever.



Night walkers were bang on time target

AFTER a gruelling 81 mile hike right through the night from Peterborough to raise money for spastics, a group of Peterborough businessmen, R.A.F. personnel, housewives and an ex-Bluebell girl arrived at their London destination—Trafalgar Square right on target at 2.0 p.m. on July 5th.

Stephanie Voss, glamorous star of stage, screen and T.V., and Mrs. C. E. Adey, a member of the Society's Executive Council, were there to greet them and thank them.

Picture above shows Stephanie and Mrs. Adey greeting spastic Robin Shelton, from Ramsey, Hunts., who joined the walkers for the last part of their journey.

Picture right: Wheelchairs pushed by staff and friends of the Society's Family Help Unit at Nottingham, leave Derby in a sponsored race during Spastics Week. The race was to the Nottingham Unit, and with sponsorship fees, the racers hoped to raise about £250.

Picture by courtesy of Derby Evening Telegraph



Chairman calls for Minister for Disabled

MR. W. A. Burn, Chairman of The Spastics Society made an eloquent plea for the Government to appoint a Minister for the Disabled, and for an allowance to be paid to all handicapped people, when he spoke at the annual general meeting of the Croydon and District Spastics Society, during Spastics Week.

He said that voluntary organisations, Local Authorities and the nation as a whole must work together with determination to "help solve the many problems of this depressed minority of handicapped persons."

He went on: "In order to minimise confusion and the overlapping of efforts, to co-ordinate activities and to ensure the maximum co-opera-

tion and efficiency at all levels, I believe the time has now come for the Government to appoint a Minister for the Disabled. He can then help to restructure the administration of statutory and voluntary effort throughout the country, forging a new and dynamic partnership of all of us who have the interests and the welfare of the disabled at heart."

Mr. Burn said that the new Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons' Act created a better environment for helping the disabled, and sought by information and some measure of compulsion to ensure that the standards already set by enlightened and generous Local Authorities would become general throughout the country.

He added: "Unfortunately, many Councils have, up to now, handed out grudgingly the bare essentials as far as the disabled are concerned."

But the act could only be regarded as a springboard towards further achievements in the interests and for the welfare of all disabled "so that ultimately no handicapped person will remain either financially or in any other way a 'second class' citizen."

ALLOWANCE

Mr. Burn said he was pleased to see that a new Government Bill would include provision for an attendance allowance of £4 per week—though less or nothing for younger children—for severe disablement involving virtually continuous attendance night and day.

"This is another step, even if only a modest one, in the right direction. There must be an allowance for all disabled people, as there is already quite rightly for the war wounded and the industrially injured.

"Why should a disabled housewife, for example, not be entitled as a right to a special allowance which would at least alleviate, although it would not solve, the many special problems which she and her family must inevitably face?"

"The higher personal expenses of the disabled, in and out of the home, must be recognised by special tax reliefs. There is, in fact, an urgent need for a comprehensive and sympathetic review of the entire tax system as it affects disabled people, the charities that serve them, and the donors who contribute so willingly to their funds.

"Let the Government pursue a positive, generous and far-seeing policy instead of compelling us to live with a 'hotch potch' and complex tax structure with its negative approach and built-in disincentives towards charities."

DAY OUT WITH THE CABBIES

TEENAGE and adult spastics in Blackpool recently had a day out in the Lake District thanks to the generosity of local taxi drivers.

Members of the Blackpool Licensed Taxi Operators Association all contributed to the day's expenses and eight drivers gave up their time and cabs to transport the 38 spastics.

Outspoken views show healthy spirit from Local Groups

MOST of The Spastics Society's Local Groups hold their annual general meetings in the summer. This year these meetings have had local Press publicity in many different parts of the country.

Several controversial statements were reported, showing a healthy questioning spirit. In Norwich, for instance,

welfare organisations.

Mr. J. Pedder, Headmaster of the Wilfrid Pickles School, speaking at the annual general meeting of Leicester Spastics Society, thought that a complete reappraisal of the idea of community

care for the handicapped was needed.

He said that "do-gooders" who gave money towards such care were only satisfying their consciences. What was needed were good neighbours "coming in for a couple

of hours" to give over-worked parents a break.

Members of the Herefordshire Spastics Society were warned by Dr. Margaret Griffiths, head of the spastics unit at Lea Castle Hospital, not to make life too easy for handicapped children, otherwise they would be unable to accept

the discipline imposed by a working routine when they grew up.

At this meeting, mention was also made of the Group's new seaside bungalow. The Northampton and Shropshire Groups, too, reported the provision of holiday accommodation for spastics, while members in Basingstoke, Morcambe, Halifax and East Sussex heard about the progress of existing Day and Work Centres.

A Work Centre was being planned by the York Group, adult residential homes at Weston-super-Mare and Bournemouth and a Day Care Centre at Tunbridge Wells. The Crosby, Bootle, Litherland and District Spastics Society announced tentative plans for a playgroup.

This year's meetings show that, apart from actual Centres, the Groups provide a huge variety of services to spastics.

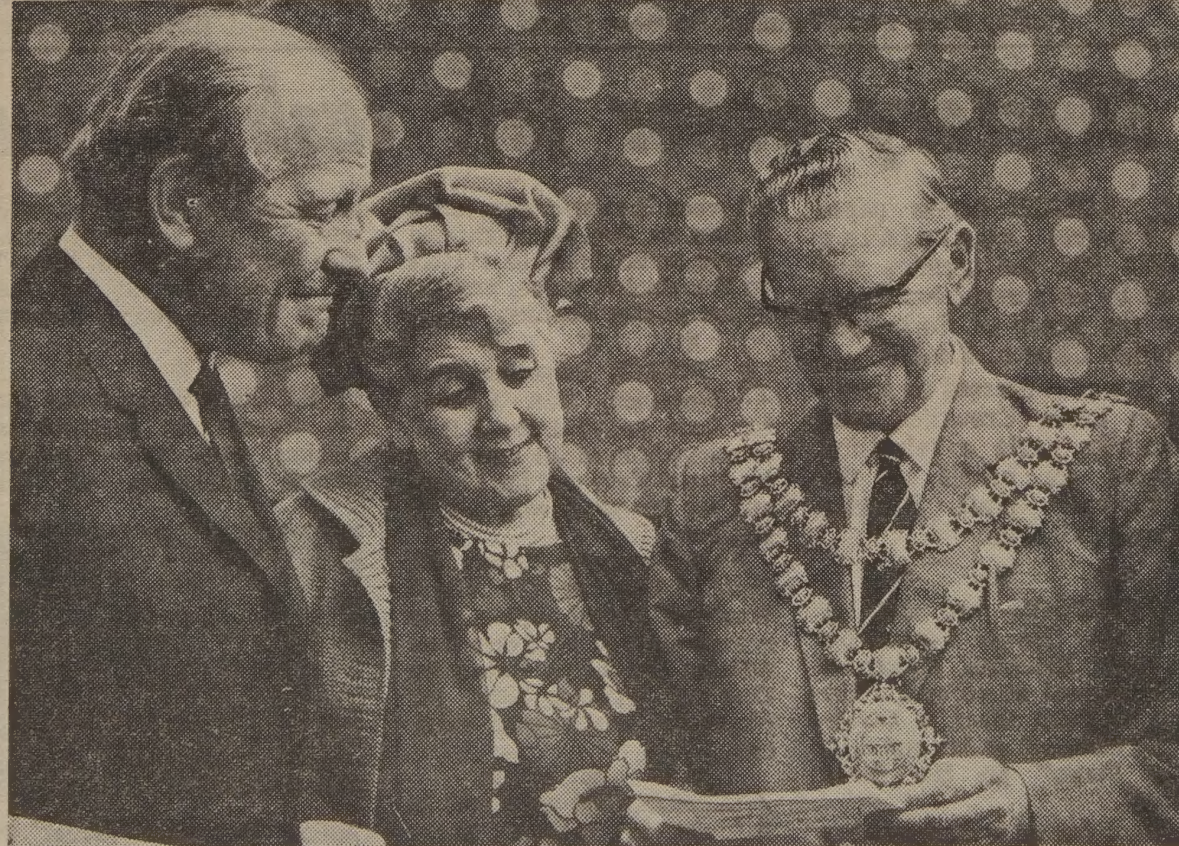
Finally, here is a tribute to the Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastics Society made by the Mayor of Poole, Alderman J. Steptoe, O.B.E., the Group's Joint President, when he took the chair at the annual general meeting. It has, I feel a universal application.

He remarked on the happiness he felt that, in a world where all too often people were saying "Something must be done," he was among people who said: "I must do something."

KALEIDOSCOPE by Anne Plummer

the Group Secretary, Mr. G. F. Howard, warned that too many organisations catering for handicapped people were being formed, which made fund-raising more difficult for the existing charities. This meant, he felt, that such organisations could be "on the way out."

Unnecessary duplication of effort also worried Mr. W. A. Day, Chairman of Yeovil and District Spastics Welfare Society, who called for closer co-operation between different



Speakers at the annual general meeting of the Wigan and District Spastics Association read through the agenda beforehand. Left to right are Dr. R. M. Forrester, Group Chairman, Mrs. L. Stockdale (guest speaker and Chairman of Sale, Altrincham and District Group) and Alderman John McGregor, Mayor of Wigan and Group President.

Photo by courtesy of Evening Post and Chronicle, Wigan

Press women hear the expert view

AS a prelude to Spastics Week, the Society invited women journalists to see the work of the Family Services and Assessment Centre, Fitzroy Square, London, and discuss the Centre's services with the staff.

Before putting their questions to the medical, psychological, social work, and employment experts, the journalists saw the film, "The Importance of Knowing." This is one of the

Society's new films, and particularly appropriate for the occasion, as it deals with the vital need for children to be medically and educationally assessed, so that their abilities can be developed and their disabilities treated.

During the informal reception and luncheon, the journalists interviewed the assessment specialists at the Centre, and the result has been many column inches in the newspapers about this important aspect of the Society's work.



ABOVE: Mr. James Loring, the Society's Director explains the work of the Centre to Miss Paula Davies of the Catholic Herald, and Miss Shirley Lewis of The Guardian. BELOW: Miss Valerie Webster of Thompson Newspapers interviews the Society's Consultant Psychiatrist, Dr. Donald Gough.



ABOVE: Mr. Leslie Gardner, Principal Psychologist and Head of the Department of Educational and Social Studies, is pictured with Miss V. Stone of Home and Country, Miss P. Dack, of Nursing Mirror, and Miss J. Shapiro of Good Housekeeping.

LEFT: Mrs. V. Chichen, Regional social worker, with Miss M. Maisel of Westminster Press.



BELOW: The work of the Centre went on during the Press Reception, and Miss Margaret Morgan (third from left), Head of the Social Work and Employment Department, is seen with parents who had brought their children for assessment. On the left are Mr. and Mrs. Everett from Suffolk; their daughter Jill is at the head of the table, and on the right are Mr. and Mrs. Corbey from Hampshire, with their daughter Sarah.



BELOW LEFT: Miss Wyn Knowles, Deputy Editor of Woman's Hour, with Consultant Paediatrician, Dr. J. Luder.

BELOW: Miss S. Skidmore of Mother and Baby magazine with Mr. Bill Hargreaves, the Society's Clubs Officer.



Triumphant return for car trio

(Contd. from Page 1)
present, I share a bachelor flat with some other lads."

In the meantime, Jean hopes to work in a Spastics Society residential home near London where she can see more of David pending their marriage and, at the same time, "do a really worthwhile job. Because I do so admire

the independent spirit of the handicapped."

Many people weighed in behind the spastic drivers to help them in their record attempt. The car they drove, a Ford Zodiac Automatic, was loaned by the Ford Motor Company. Special hand controls were installed by Reselco to enable Owen Parry, who is

normally confined to a wheelchair, to drive the car. Shell met all the petrol costs. And the R.A.C. happily agreed to support the effort en route.

Now the drivers, who represented the Association of '62 Clubs, are waiting hopefully to learn whether their marathon drive is accepted as a record by the Guinness Book of Records.

Golden wedding gifts went to aid Centre

A NORTHUMBERLAND couple asked relatives and friends to remember their Golden Wedding with cash gifts so that they could pass on the money to help spastics.

They were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hebron of Bedlington Station, Northumberland, who recently celebrated 50 years of married life with a tea party at the local Methodist Chapel.

During the afternoon they presented a cheque for £72 10s. to Mr. Gordon Crowther, Secretary/Treasurer of the Percy Hedley Spastics Centre at Forest Hall, Newcastle. The money will go into the fund for a new workshop at the Centre.

STUDENTS WILL MEET AGAIN

A REUNION of ex-Puckle Hill students, will be held at the Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre, Fitzroy Square, London, from the 11th to 13th September. Accommodation is available, price £3 for the weekend. If you are an ex-student of Puckle Hill, Shorne, Kent, write to: Mr. David Beebe, Flat 11, Nelson Buildings, Hopton Street, London, S.E.1.



MICHAEL Nancurvis and Jennifer Northway, who were recently married at St. Paul's Church, Swansea, have now returned from a "fabulous" honeymoon in Mexico—thanks to their friend John Lloyd, a member of the "Spastics Pool".

John, of Bishopston, near Swansea, won one of the Mexico trips to see the World Cup series in the Pool's "Pick-A-UK-Team" competition. As Michael, a player with a local football club and a soccer fanatic, had helped him with his selection, John gave the prize to the young couple as a wedding present. Michael and Jennifer, who had booked a

honeymoon in Majorca, gave their tickets to John and his wife in return.

Our picture shows the bride getting a congratulatory kiss from John, while Michael returns the compliment with a thank you kiss to John's wife.



OVER the years many hundreds of prizes have been distributed to Derbyshire members. But it was quite a turn-up for the book recently when three members in the county each received major prizes at the same presentation.

Our pictures show Chesterfield F.C. trainer Gerry Clarke

handing over the keys and log book to her newly-won car to Mrs. Wright, Chesterfield F.C. captain Keith Archer presenting a cheque for £1,915 8s. 11d. to Mrs. Barnes, and Roy Hickton, also of Chesterfield F.C., handing over the log book and keys to another car won by Miss E. Brown.

Our thanks to Chesterfield F.C. for doing this honour.

IT gave R.P.P. a great deal of pleasure to once again sponsor the Spastics Games at Stoke Mandeville, and our representatives who were there spent a very pleasant and interesting weekend.

Leading the contingent was Managing Director Douglas Arter, who presented many of the prizes, and was ably supported by Directors Ken and Don Long, who gave a helping hand wherever possible.

Four of our Charm Girls—Dawn Scully, Jean Woodhouse, Diane Nynett and Diane Beane—were busy selling programmes and helping with the washing-up, while Jeff Mercer kept a watchful eye on things in general!

THERE'S been a poor response so far to our appeal for a new competition idea to be used in the weekly bulletin when the present Charm Girl series ends.

Local Groups have received benefits as a result of the current competition, and we would now like to plan something a bit different.

To recap, all the girls whose photographs were used in the Charm Girl competition received £5 for themselves and Local Groups received benefits in varying amounts. What we now want is an attractive competition to replace it—and if it's your idea that we use, you will receive a suitable reward. So get cracking and send in those ideas to P. & P. Department, Regional Pool Promotions Ltd., P.O. Box 215, 104 Stokes Croft, Bristol, BS99 7QX.

Splashes from the Spastics Pool

Organisation for Spastics, who is appearing in a summer season in the West Country; Thelma Ruby, who is appearing in "Fiddler on the Roof" at Bristol Hippodrome; Don Moss, who now lives in the West Country; and Elsie McCormack, the new National Charity Princess.

The event was featured on BBC television and was also widely reported in the local Press.

WHEN Dickie Henderson, Thelma Ruby and Elsie McCormack were at Pool headquarters to welcome the "Round the Coast" endurance drivers, they were also given the very serious job of judging the latest Charm Girl competition. Dickie and Thelma are pictured right.



ONCE again Freddie "Parrot Face" Davies has done us the favour of presenting one of our Pool prizes. This time it was in Manchester where Freddie, who was appearing at the Golden Garter, handed over a cheque for £509 9s. 2d. to Miss Longden, one of our recent dividend winners. Thank you, Freddie!

THE '62 Club and the "Spastics Pool" joined forces to arrange an extra special welcome in Bristol for the three '62 Club members who staged the "Round the Coast" endurance drive during Spastics Week.

The drivers were met at the Severn Bridge by '62 Club President, Bill Hargreaves, National Chairman Adrian Wright, and RCO Director, Roy Laver. They were then escorted through the city to Regional Pool Promotions head office at Stokes Croft, where they were met by R.P.P. Managing Director Douglas Arter, and rally drivers Geoff Mabbs and Henry Liddon.

Big surprises in the welcoming party were Dickie Henderson, Chairman of the Stars

After all, there are only five shopping months to Christmas...

RIGHT in the middle of the summer holiday season, Stratford shipping and transport agents, Gentransco Services, are already caught up in the Christmas rush.

They have just ordered over two thousand Christmas cards from The Spastics Society. The card they have chosen is a reproduction of an Old Master showing the Tower of London and the Mint.

A spokesman for the company said: "It may seem a bit unseasonable to be choosing

Christmas cards whilst surrounded by seaside postcards from holidaymaking staff, but we are making sure that we will be ready in plenty of time with our Christmas greetings to all our overseas customers.

"We decided to send charity cards again this year because we know the money will help spastics, and the design of the

card itself is very appropriate to our business."

Comment from The Spastics Society: "This is our first card order from a commercial company this year, and we were particularly delighted to receive it during Spastics Week, when we were appealing to everyone to help us to raise desperately needed funds."

Luncheon meeting

TO mark Spastics Week, Mr. W. A. Burn, Chairman of The Spastics Society, the Honorary Officers and the Director, met a number of the Society's Vice-Presidents at lunch at The Wellcome Building. All were the guests of the Wellcome Foundation through Dr. D. E. Wheeler, Vice-President, and a former Chairman of the Society.

A very useful and stimulating discussion took place around the table on the Society's problems, plans and policy.

It is appropriate here to record the Society's appreciation of the generous help given by Dr. Wheeler and The Wellcome Foundation in providing an occasional platform where, as guests of the Foundation, the Honorary Officers can meet Editors of national newspapers and other influential members of the community, for background discussions.

PICTURE SHOWS: left to right, Mr. H. W. Palmer (Vice-Chairman); Mr. Christopher Mayhew MP (Vice-President); Mr. J. Cleon Hubbard (longest serving Vice-President); Mr. D. B. E. Belson (Honorary Treasurer); Mr. W. A. Burn (Chairman); Gwen Lady Melchett (Vice-President); Dr. D. E. Wheeler (Vice-President); His Grace the Duke of Rutland (Vice-President); Mr. A. Moira (Vice-Chairman); Mr. James Loring (Director).



The day the Guard watched the changing of the tyre

FRESH from his triumphant round-Britain drive (reported in words and pictures on Page 1) David Branch drove a mile or so across London—and got a flat tyre. What is more it happened at Buckingham Palace.

David was accompanying a party of 12 spastics who were staying at the Fitzroy Square Centre on a London sightseeing holiday, and they had permission to view the Changing of the Guard from inside the Palace forecourt. Some of the group travelled in the Fitzroy Square minibus, others in David's own car, and after they had driven through the famous wrought-iron gates the puncture was discovered.

David and the driver-handyman from the Fitzroy Square Centre had to change the tyre on the spot under the stern martial glare of the Guards.

Record total at Ponds

THIS year's fete organised by the Friends of the Spastics at Ponds Home, raised a record total of £1,000.

The fete was held in the grounds at Ponds, the Society's residential home for young adult spastics at Seer Green, in Buckinghamshire. It was opened by Baroness Davina Darcy De Knayth, who is confined to a wheelchair as a result of a car accident some years ago.

Mr. Brian Dive, a resident of Ponds since it first opened in 1955, presented the Baroness with a painting by another resident, Mr. Jim Woods.

The Baroness later handed over G.C.E. certificates which had been awarded to seven members of the Ponds "family."

Success for Croydon Show

DISC jockey Pete Brady presented rosettes to members of a team of spastic horse riders, who took part in a special display at the Croydon and District Spastics Society's Horse Show and Gymkhana, held at Great Bookham, Surrey.

The riders were all from The Spastics Society's Thomas Delarue School, at Tonbridge, Kent.

A record number of competitors took part in the Show. "There were at least 300 horses present," said Mrs. Margot Renny, one of the organisers.

The Croydon and District Spastics Society will receive between £400 and £500 as a result of the show, which was the seventh it has staged. The Society needs £8,000 each year to maintain its Children's Centre and Work Centre. In addition it needs £6,000 to complete the cost of extensions to the Work Centre.



Lord Arran with some of the children from Society Schools who made up the fine choir at the Service of Dedication for Spastics Week.

Spastics Games: Gold and silver awards

Gold Medallists

Meldreth Training School: V. Sims; R. I. Jones; B. O'Connor; Kowalenko (3).

Delarue School: Thorpe (3); Kimberley (2); Yorkston; Gamble (2); D. Day; Smart (3); Francis (3); Webster (2); J. Underwood; Norton; Harding; Syrie; A. Trotman (3).

Craig-Y-Parc School: Calver; Fysh (4); Lang; Harding (4); L. Harrison (2); Neil; Reid.

Ingfield Manor School: Ford; O'Keefe (4); Hudson (2); Iddenden (3); Brown (2); B. Edwards; B. Valentine (2); J. Parrish (2).

Oakwood Further Education Centre: V. Catlow (5); Levigne (2); Hall; Wintle (2); Y. Jones.

Dene Park Further Education Centre: Bates (4); Woolaston; M. Forrest (5); J. Ormrod (3); Smith (2).

Lancaster Training Centre: J. Seddon; Ditcher; M. Long (3); T. Devitt; L. McMahon; Bradley; Musial (2); Kendall; Bidwell; Ryan.

Wilfred Pickles School: Stallwood (2); Artis.

Percy Hedley School: Sproates (5); Forreshaw; Moore (4); Burns (3); Dixon; Maskell (3); J. French (2); Patterson; Nicholson; Maitchell.

Sherrards Training Centre: B. Connor; Hoole; Williams.

Meadway Works: D. King; Dalby; Chapman; La Touche (2); Wheeler; Powell; Fletcher; Fitzgerald; Small; M. O'Sullivan.

Ponds Home: J. Tagg; A. Rattenbury (3); Bowry; Laycock (3); Kerwin.

Ian Tetley Memorial School: Harrogate; Vickery; Vine; Carter; Silvey; Myers; H. Halpin; Toner.

Smiling Faces Club, Wolverhampton: Powers (3); Watson; Turner; G. Cutler; Whitehouse.

Star Centre for Youth, Cheltenham: O'Connell; Gilani (4).

Nottingham & District Sports Association for the Disabled: R. Allen (2); Bonser; A. Shelton.

Mansfield & District Sports Association for the Disabled: Pinnick (2).

Midland Spastics Association: Beaman; Bucktin (2).

Princess Margaret School, Taunton: D. Glynn; C. Pickering; Infield.

Bleasdale House School, Silverdale, Lanes: A. Couch; Hine; Pitten.

Blackpool & Fylde Spastics Association: Charnock.

The Falmouth '62 Club: Hart (3); Wilson.

Silver Medallists

Meldreth: Atkinson; Chadwick (2); N. Earey (2); Archer; Doman; Garrard (2); Kowalenko; Thackeray (2); B. O'Connor; O'Keefe.

Thomas Delarue: D. Day (3); Webster; Octon (2); Smart (2); Scott; Coleman (4); Yorkston (3); Syrie (2); Saddler (2); Norton (2); Griffiths.

Craig-Y-Parc: Neil (2); Strong (2); Newsham; Sharp.

Ingfield Manor: Y. Birch; Brown (3); B. Valentine; B. Minker; Hudson (2); Parrish (2); Iddenden; K. Infield.

Sherrards: B. Sims; Hoole (2); Doughty; V. Sims; Williams; Levy.

Dene Park: A. Corbett (2); S. James; L. Thomas; J. Adams; Baquley; Bates; Barton; L. Bates; Andrews; B. Edwards; James.

Lancaster: J. Bradford; M. Gott; L. McMahon; Walker; Pearson; Kendall; S. Nash; Musial.

Meadway Works: Fletcher; Wray; Fitzgerald.

Percy Hedley: Rhodes; Forshaw (3); Nicholson (3); Francis; Burns (2); Patterson; Sproates; Matchell (2); J. French; Dixon (4).

Oakwood: Levigne; Bains (2); I. Jones; Y. Jones; Hall.

Ponds: J. Tagg; C. Hodges; Bowry; Evans (2); C. Stone; Kerwin.

Smiling Faces Club: S. Hurd; P. Watson-Wood; M. Pritchard (3); P. Spacey (3); Hill.

Star Centre for Youth: F. Bennet (2); D. O'Connell; Litzinowicz.

Bleasdale House School: A. Billington (2).

Ian Tetley Memorial School: Soley; Toner; Myers; Silvey.

Midland Spastics Association: Bucktin (2); Turner; Watson; Beaman; M. O'Sullivan; Smith.

Southampton '62 Club: Evans; C. Pearce (2); Laycock.

Princess Margaret School: Wilson; Calver; J. Pulford; Pickering (3).

Brownhills School, Rochdale, Lanes: J. Timmins.

Nottingham & District Sports Association for the Disabled: D. King; Verity (2); R. Allen (2); A. Shelton.

Blackpool & Fylde Spastics Association: C. Bolton.

Dagenham '62 Club: Jamieson.

Wilfred Pickles School: Artis.

Challenge to Local Authorities: Examine your consciences

— Lord Arran

LOCAL authorities which are not doing their utmost to help the physically and mentally handicapped should hang their heads in shame, the Earl of Arran said at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on Sunday, July 5th. Lord Arran was giving an address at the Service of Dedication for Spastics Week, attended by a large number of the disabled. "It should weigh heavily on the conscience of any local authority which does not do its duty towards the handicapped," he said. "I challenge all local authorities to examine their consciences and to say truthfully that they are doing their utmost in these matters."

"It is a scandal in our midst. Every British-born child has a right to concern, consideration and an education suited to its needs. If we ignore the needs of a single child then we are guilty as a nation and it is up to everyone of us to demand that the physically and mentally handicapped should receive equal treatment along with every other member of our community."

Lord Arran said there were two things vitally needed. Firstly, places where the severely physically handicapped could work, be treated or be taught. Providing these things was a job for local authorities and hospital boards—a job which in many areas was not being done.

Secondly, better care facilities for the mentally handicapped who are at present

herded into hospitals, kept alive and no more. Staff and facilities for treatment or rehabilitation were just not present.

Kind and Gentle

Fifty years ago the tendency was to ignore or try to forget what was embarrassing and unpleasant. But not now. Despite what we read and heard about wars and crimes and evil of all kinds, he stood firmly and steadfastly convinced that the human race

was becoming more kindly and more gentle. He gave the lie to those who despaired.

The plain fact was that there were 100,000 spastics in this country — six more were born each day — and at least 80,000, that is, four-fifths of these were not being reached. Spastics were, nowadays, accepted as ordinary human beings with handicaps, but despite the prodigious efforts of the Society and the help given by individuals, hospitals and some local authorities a further million pounds a year was needed to maintain and expand, and who in the face of the figures could doubt the need for expanding the Society's activities.

During the service, the Rev. Austen Williams, Vicar of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, said a special prayer written by the Archbishop of Canterbury, for Spastics Week.

Just three of the many reasons for selecting Carters equipment

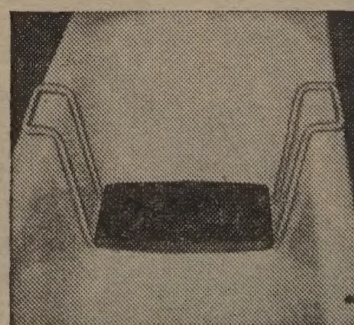


1 Carters experience. Carters have for many years taken the lead in supplying items to aid the disabled. Experienced staff work in close co-operation with medical personnel in Hospitals, Welfare Organisations and Private Practice. The result is an extensive range of equipment which meets the needs of patients requiring physical medicine or rehabilitation.

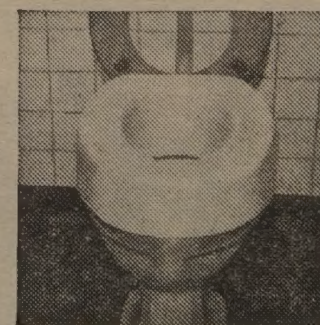
2 Carters aids are adaptable. Every item is especially designed for its purpose. Adaptable to meet varied requirements and designed to give lasting, reliable service.

3 Carters use only the finest materials. Carters have pursued a consistent policy of using the finest materials and the most modern manufacturing methods. This ensures an excellent product at a competitive price.

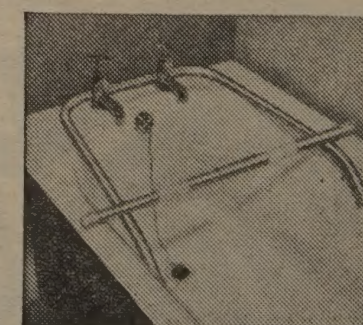
Everest & Jennings Wheelchair 8U20/0524VL Fitted with specially designed handrims which help to overcome difficulties of wheelchair patients who suffer from arthritic conditions.



Simplex Bath Seat C412
This aid adapts to the bath to help those patients who find difficulty getting into or out of the bath. Rubber covered rests prevent scratching of bath sides.



Raised Toilet Seat C457
Made in hard wearing polypropylene. Increases toilet height by approx 6". Can be cleaned with boiling water.



Instant Bath Rail C439
A chromium plated Bath Rail which is adjustable to any bath width. Fitted with rubber tips to avoid scratching the bath.

Please send the following illustrated literature:

☐ Bathroom and Toilet Aids
☐ Wheelchairs
Please tick item(s) required

Name _____

Address _____

SP6

CARTERS (J&A) Ltd



65 Wigmore Street,
London W1H 0EL
Tel: 01-486 3835

VISIT BY DUKE

THE Duke of Edinburgh visited Westerlea School for spastic children, Edinburgh, on July 21st. The school is run by the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics. Full report in our next issue.

Record is skittled



MRS. Clarrie Williams, Chairman of Monmouthshire Spastics Society bowled the first wood in a 24-hour marathon for Spastics Week which broke the world record of 44,144 skittles knocked down in 24 hours.

Members of Cwmbran's Christian Council of Youth beat the record by 1,000 skittles and it is hoped that the new figure will be entered in

the Guinness Book of Records. A collection at the marathon raised £111.

Picture shows Mrs. Williams with the Rev. Paul Vann watching the marathon. Also in the picture is Mr. J. Davies, Chairman of the Cwmbran and Pontypool Committee of the Monmouthshire Society whose members gave support and sustenance throughout the 24 hours.

Sour joker tried to sabotage big walk

THE Army and the St. John Ambulance Brigade came to the rescue of The Spastics Society, when someone with a twisted sense of humour tried to sabotage a Spastics Week sponsored walk in Epping Forest.

The walk had been carefully planned to by-pass all major roads. However, as two members of the Society went round the forest at 2 a.m. on Sunday placing directional arrows, these were either removed or altered by someone following behind. Other arrows left at base were stolen.

As a result, more than 2,000 walkers were unable to follow the original planned route accurately, despite a further last-minute briefing of marshals—and consequently some youngsters tended to stray on to busy roads.

HELPING HAND

This was where the Army stepped in with a cheerful helping hand. The Royal Signals T.A.V.R. Unit based at Wanstead patrolled the route and roads in jeeps, arranged special checkpoints and laid on radio cover to report back on progress. The Unit worked in conjunction with the St. John Ambulance Brigade who, in addition to staffing emergency checkpoints, went out in the jeeps to pick up stragglers and provide first aid where necessary.

Says Mr. Ron Wotherspoon, a Spastics Society Field Operations Officer who organised the Walk: "The person who removed the arrows could have caused chaos and deprived the handicapped of much-needed sums of money. But, thanks to the wonderful help and efficiency of both the Army and the St. John Ambulance Division, we were able to overcome difficulties and raise a handsome sum for severely handicapped children."

DIRECTOR ELECTED

AFTER a postal ballot, Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society has been elected to represent the Health and Handicaps Group on the executive committee of the National Council of Social Service.



The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Ian Bowater, receives the first flag from Bartholomew, watched by the Lady Mayoress.

Great welcome home for Tom and his donkey

FLICKA, the little grey Cornish donkey, could feel justly proud of himself as he munched on a bunch of carrots at Land's End on July 4. He and his master Tom Stephens, 67, of St. Blazey, had just hoofed it all the way from John O'Groats, and raised more than £700 for spastics.

The donkey had worn out four sets of shoes en route. And his master had gone through three pairs. But the effort was well worthwhile, for the money will go towards a new Treatment Centre for spastics at Truro.

It took just one month for Tom and Flicka to complete their journey, collecting money as they went. Visits to carnivals and Spastics Week events after the journey brought the figure raised up to £1,000.

A tremendous welcome

awaited Tom, who runs a smallholding, and Flicka, at Land's End. Tom was presented with a cheque and a certificate by the Chairman of West Penwith Rural Council, Mr. R. B. Thomas. Flicka was presented with a bunch of carrots by a little girl. It was hard to tell whether the man or the donkey was most grateful.

On the last lap of his journey, Tom was given a tremendous welcome at his home town St. Blazey, with flags flying and bands playing. The Mayor of St. Austell with Fowey Borough Council turned out to greet them, along with representatives of many of the town's organisations.

At the end of his journey Tom said he particularly wanted to thank drivers of lorries, cars and coaches for their co-operation during the trip.



"TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER"

WITH pomp and dignity of the kind usually reserved for Royal occasions, Bartholomew Proton X12 is pictured above, sweeping past the Mansion House on Friday, July 10, to keep an appointment with the Lord Mayor of London. He had promised to sell the Lord Mayor (Sir Ian Bowater) the first flag of The Spastics Society's first ever London flag day.

Bartholomew, as Spastics News readers will recall, is an eight feet high robot, built by students at Hornsey College of Art. The students are Helga Lawrence, Max Rosenberg, Bob Silk and Jeremy Braund.

The massive robot arrived by brewer's dray, kindly provided by Whitbread and pulled by Hengist and Horsa, two magnificent dapple greys. "It's the only way to travel," Mr. Proton is reported to have confided to friends afterwards. "After all, when you're eight feet tall, and have 12 volt heavy duty batteries in your feet, you can hardly go around hailing taxis, can you?"

SEE-THROUGH LOOK

As Bartholomew—who is thought to be one of the only see-through robots in existence—was helped to the ground, crowds of curious bystanders began to gather. Spastics Society receptionist Theresa Somerville quickly took advantage of the situation and sold them all flags.

Soon it was all systems go for Bartholomew. He stood stiffly to attention, with all his terminals connected and all his circuits functioning correctly. The Lord Mayor approached him and inspected him carefully before feeding him with a coin.

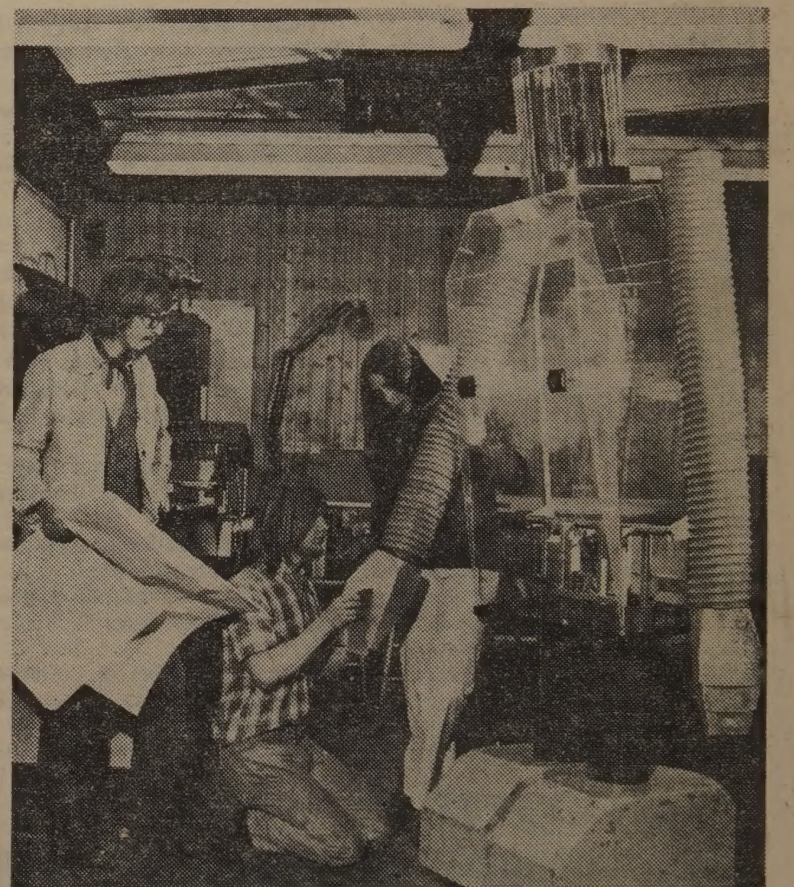
Bartholomew belched gratefully. He bowed to the Lord Mayor, and the ten multi-coloured balls in his chest began to ping in all directions. Lights flashed. At last he spoke, sounding more than a little like Derek Nimmo, hardly surprising since Derek had kindly tape-recorded a voice for the

previously mute robot.

Television cameras whirled and press cameras clicked as the visitor from Proton finished his speech. He bowed once more and was helped back on to the dray to be taken to the Royal Exchange, from where he sold flags for the rest of the day. The next day he moved to Selfridges where once again he sold flags.

Now the robot giant occu-

pies a place of honour guarding the main door to The Spastics Society's headquarters in Park Crescent. Every day his perspex and aluminium are carefully dusted by receptionist Theresa who says that she is quite falling in love with him. "The only trouble is," she says, "that he keeps me broke. I have to shove a coin in his slot every time I want him to talk to me."



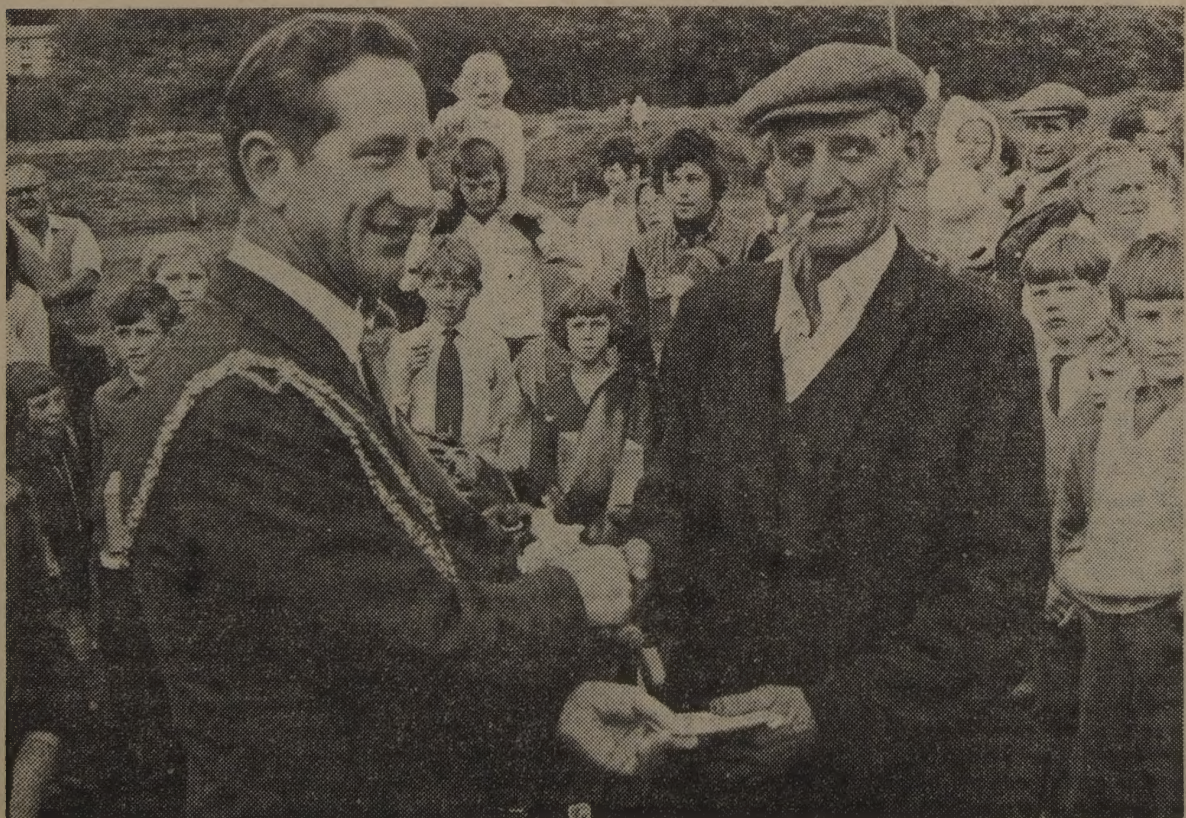
A robot is born. Bob Silk, Jeremy Braund and Helga Lawrence put the final touches to Bartholomew Proton X12.

Vera Lynn will appeal to TV millions

VERA Lynn will make a TV appeal on behalf of the Stars Organisation for Spastics on BBC-1 at 7.20 p.m. on Sunday, August 16th.

The work of the S.O.S. will be explained, and viewers will see the activities of the spastics at the S.O.S. Centre, Wakes Hall, near Colchester, Essex. Honorary officers of the S.O.S. will also be shown at one of their meetings at which they discuss ways and means of raising funds for Wakes Hall, and the S.O.S. holiday Centre for children at Bexhill.

The S.O.S. is embarking on an ambitious project to raise funds for a third Centre, to be built at Camberwell, London, so members are hoping that the TV appeal will result in a generous response from viewers. If anyone can persuade viewers of the needs of spastics it is Vera Lynn. She is an eloquent speaker on behalf of the S.O.S. and has worked wholeheartedly for spastics for many years. She is a Vice-President of the Organisation, and a past Chairman.



Picture shows: Tom presenting a cheque for The Spastics Society to Mr. Ray Old, Mayor of St. Austell with Fowey. The Mayor congratulated Tom—and Flicka—on their memorable achievement.

Picture by courtesy of Grindley Studios, Cornwall.

Published by The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, W1. Printed by Bristol United Press Ltd., Silver Street, Bristol, 1. In Association with Godfrey Lang Ltd., Cliffords Inn, London, E.C.4.